

Re: Highland Park Hardware Store follow up

**Subject:** Re: Highland Park Hardware Store follow up  
**From:** Misty Iwatsu <mistyli@aol.com>  
**Date:** 02/16/2017 01:08 PM  
**To:** 27468@lapd.online

thank you

Misty Iwatsu, Executive Director  
North Figueroa Association  
Lincoln Heights Benefit Assn of LA

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Allen <27468@lapd.online>  
To: Misty Iwatsu <mistyli@aol.com>  
Sent: Thu, Feb 16, 2017 12:46 pm  
Subject: RE: Highland Park Hardware Store follow up

I did meet with the Hardware store staff. I gave the picture of the transient to the Figueroa Foot Beat Officers and directed them to conduct extra patrol. I have not seen him lately so I hope the patrols has deterred him from hanging out.

**From:** Misty Iwatsu [mailto:mistyli@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** Mark Allen <27468@lapd.online>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Highland Park Hardware Store follow up

Mark- FYI

Misty Iwatsu, Executive Director  
North Figueroa Association  
Lincoln Heights Benefit Assn of LA

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-----Original Message-----

From: Sean Cohan <scohan@gss1944.com>  
To: Mistyli <mistyli@aol.com>  
Sent: Wed, Feb 1, 2017 10:47 am  
Subject: Highland Park Hardware Store follow up

Hi Misty,

On Thursday 1/26/17 I received a voice mail from Ramon at Highland Park Hardware. He

stated he was having issues with a habitual homeless person who was hanging out in front of his store, drinking, loitering, etc. Ramon also called our 800 number and spoke with one of our field supervisors and complained about security. Per my supervisor Ramon wants GSSI BID officers to go "hands on" and physically detain the transient and make an arrest.

I called Ramon back but he was not at the store. I left my name and number with one of his staff and asked that they tell Ramon that I returned his call. My call was not immediately returned.

On 1/27/17 at approx. 0930 hrs, I responded to Highland Park Hardware and was advised that Ramon was at their Lincoln Heights Store.

I responded to the Lincoln Heights store and was able to meet with Ramon where we discussed the issues affecting his store in Highland Park.

Ramon advised me that while the transient has not entered his store in a very long time, the transient loiters outside and engages in public urination and public drinking. The transient seems to be loitering because he listens to the music coming from a nearby tenant space. I explained to Ramon that our officers should avoid getting into any physical confrontation with the transient unless the transient is a threat to the public. I advised Ramon that if the transient is inside his store and threatening staff, our officers will respond and consider all options including a use of force to protect his staff and customers. But that we should avoid escalating the situation over public drinking, public urination, etc that is occurring out on the sidewalk.

I also advised Ramon that arrests and subsequent prosecutions for public urination are rare and that I couldn't think of a specific statute that directly addresses it. Ramon stated it was "indecent exposure". I advised that for the charge of indecent exposure there would have to be some type of lewd conduct demonstrated by the suspect. Nonetheless, our BID officers would have to contact LAPD to get involved in that situation and they could make the determination if an arrest is warranted. Ramon stated that by the time the LAPD arrives the transient will be gone. LAPD normally does not make arrests for public urination, even when it was against the law some years ago only a citation was issued...people weren't taken to jail unless they were also drunk in public or some other offense was present.

I provided Ramon with (4) Trespass Authorization forms and explained the process to get those forms on file with LAPD. I also discussed the proper signage he needs to put inside his store regarding trespassing, however these are only effective to handle trespassing inside the store. They do not effect anything that occurs on a public sidewalk. Ramon said he would get the forms done and find the proper signage.

I checked our officer's reports and noted frequent patrols of Ave 52/53 area where the Hardware Store is located. The Church, Weinerschnitzel, the gas station, and 711 appear to be getting most of the focus as there are places for transients to loiter. There was one client contact at the Hardware Store noted on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>. However in speaking with store staff and the main dayshift guard Jose Velasco, there appears to have been more contacts than were documented. I asked Raul (Ramon's son) how often the security officers come into his store over the last month and he stated the guards come

by "once or twice a day". One particular officer, Jose Velasco, has been very active in the area and with the hardware store specifically.

Monday 1/9 - BID Officer On Site and spoke with Raul, no issues reported

Friday 1/27 4:08PM - BID Officer On Site spoke with Raul, no issues reported

Saturday 1/28 1:17pm and 3:34pm - BID Officer On Site and spoke with Raul, no issues reported

Monday 1/30 11:14am - BID Officer On Site and spoke with Raul, no issues reported

Monday 1/31 3:32pm- BID officer on site and spoke with Raul, no issues reported

On 1/30 I was able to reach SLO Mark Allen and I debriefed him on the issues and our efforts to date. Mark advised he would be stopping by the hardware store. I also provided Mark with a photo of the transient involved.

*Cordially,*

**Sean Cohan**

Branch Manager  
Los Angeles Area

**GSSI**

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